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EYD-3287-59

20 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

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SUBJECT : Conversation with General Cabell on 15 May 1959 Concerning Location of KI Base for [redacted] Air Assets

REFERENCE : Memorandum for Deputy Director (Plans) from Deputy Director of Plans, DCS/Pol, Headquarters Air Force, dated 12 May 1959; subject: Relocation of CIA Air Assets from Wiesbaden, Germany to the United States.

1. In the temporary absence of Colonel Burke, I was called to General Cabell's office for a meeting on the afternoon of 15 May 1959. Colonel Leo P. Geary, USAF, was also present. In the course of a discussion on numerous topics, I had occasion to inquire of General Cabell if he was aware of the fact that an answer, in the form of the referenced document, had been received from the Air Force on the subject of a suitable KI base for [redacted] assets. General Cabell said that he was not aware that our request for selection of a base, made on 20 April 1959, had been answered. 25X1

2. I told him then that it was General Martin's view that our requirement might most easily be met at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, since the [redacted] was about to enter on a phaseout of certain test activities that would provide a CIA detachment with the necessary room to operate. General Cabell then asked on what basis the Air Force picked Eglin over other Air Force bases where room might exist. I said that General Martin's argument in favor of Eglin seemed to me to pivot on the experience of the base there with the particular electronics maintenance and supply problems implicit in the RB-69A. Such experience, I said, was not readily available at any other Air Force base. I added that conversations with Air Material Command on locating at one of their bases had resulted in a recommendation that AMC not become involved, and that General Martin's paper had cited this recommendation as the reason why Brooks Air Force base had not been actively considered. 25X1

3. General Cabell then said that it sounded to him as though this line of reasoning was not to the point, and that instead of pivoting the eventual location of the U. S. detachment on factors

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like electronics maintenance of the [redacted] the air transport capability of the detachment should in his view govern where it was set down. He added that he envisioned the bulk of our requirements for an air capability to respond to international disturbances would center around our ability to pick up and deliver men and material, and that it made the best kind of sense to him to have the transport aircraft near the depot where the things to be carried would be located. In this context, General Cabell said that he felt Kelly Air Force Base (and Depot) would be an ideal location. He then said, then told that our next move looked like a survey trip to Eglin, that he would insist that any such survey be accompanied by a like survey of Kelly, unless the Air Force could give him about a hundred good Air Force reasons why Kelly should be eliminated from consideration. I told him that I would see that his views were reflected to those who would be planning the survey, both in our Headquarters and in Air Force Headquarters. I told General Cabell that I felt never would be less of a problem in Eglin than anywhere in Texas, but he did not agree.

SIGNED

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM JR.
Chief, Administrative Branch
DPD

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